

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 9/26/00

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-42)

TO: Charles Craig - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Umatilla River Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project, which includes the Wildhorse Creek Revegetation Project, Wildhorse and Springhollow Creek Weed Control Project, and Kent Beebe Bank Stabilization Project

Project No: 87-100-01

Budget No: F3102

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis

(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches; 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams; 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 1.7 Install other Habitat Complexity Structures; 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management; 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.6 Native Seed Inventories; 2.7 Avoid Exotic Species; 2.11 Hand Pulling; 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover; 6.14 Vegetation Stabilization: Critical Area Planting; 6.15 Vegetation Stabilization: Brush/Weed Management

Location: Wildhorse and Springhollow Creeks and the mainstem of the Lower Umatilla River in the Umatilla River Basin, near Pendleton, Oregon.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Description of the Proposed Action: The goal of this project is to protect and enhance habitat for improved natural production of existing summer steelhead and re-introduced chinook and coho salmon in the Umatilla River Basin. The Wildhorse Revegetation and Beebe Stabilization projects will attempt to implement passive, natural recovery approaches such as riparian corridor fencing in combination with intensive native revegetation efforts. The Beebe Stabilization project will implement hydraulic controls such as barbs. These projects, together with the Wildhorse and Springhollow Creek Weed Control project, will enhance riparian ecosystems providing multiple benefits for all wildlife.

Project objectives include identifying effects of habitat enhancement efforts through pre and post-project monitoring of summer stream temperatures, turbidity, macroinvertebrate communities, fish populations, stream cross-section data, habitat surveys, restoring native plant communities and eliminating invasive noxious weeds.

Analysis: The compliance checklist was completed by the CTUIR and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

These projects will improve fish habitat and channel characteristics by promotion the growth of riparian vegetation through installation of woody cuttings, planting of native grasses and control of large established annual or biennial weed infestations using herbicide applications. Plant growth will provide additional bank stablization, encourage pool development, increase insect drop for fish, aid in the reduction of water temperatures, improve bank storage, and accelerate the development of natural floodplain and channel function.

The only known threatened or endangered species present in the project areas are Canada lynx, bald eagle, bull trout, and Middle Columbia River (MCR) steelhead. Biological assessments (BAs) were provided by BPA and the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries - Habitat Enhancement Project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to conduct Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation proceedings. NMFS and USFWS concurs with BPA's finding that the proposed projects as described in the BA's, would not likely adversely affect the listed species or proposed critical habitat.

The CTUIR Cultural Resources Staff, prior to implementation of any ground-disturbing actions, will provide a report documenting the presence or absence of cultural resources within project areas to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and BPA. Contingent upon satisfactory completion of the Cultural Resources Survey and concurrence by the SHPO, these proposed actions would meet the requirements of NEPA.

Project: Wildhorse Creek Revegetation Work

Proposed Action:	Impacts:
Plant willow and red-osier dogwood cuttings in the floodplain of private property along Wildhorse Creek using "trenching" and "stinging" mechanized planting methods.	Low to no impact. Native plant materials would be placed in the riparian areas when listed MCR steelhead are least likely to be present in the project area. All in-water work completed during Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) preferred in-water work period of July 1 to October 31. Adverse impacts would be minimized by limiting mechanized equipment in the channel bed to only to when it is necessary to cross the stream and there is very little water flow. Instream crossings would be kept to a minimum.
Annual monitoring and data collection.	No impact. Photo-points, water temperatures, and salmonid utilization of the project area data would be collected for three years following project completion and reports to NMFS annually.

Project: Wildhorse Creek and Springhollow Creek Weed Control

Proposed Action:	Impacts:
Control perennial plant species or large established annual or biennial weed infestations using herbicide applications.	Low to no impact. Adverse impacts would be minimized by using plant or area specific methods to apply the herbicides and by controlling the size, timing, distribution, and frequency of treatments. Chemical treatments will not directly occur within the stream channel. All weed control will occur on the flat terraces above the channel slope, well outside the high water mark. Application would include vehicle - mounted handgun sprayer or spot treatments. No boom sprayers will be used.
Non-herbicide treatments.	No impact. Once infestation is reduced in size and density, non-herbicide tools would be used for secondary follow-up treatments where feasible and practical. Hand applications could involve backpack spraying and wiper application and would be used for areas not deemed suitable for application of herbicides by other methods.

Project: Kent Beebe Bank Stabilization

Proposed Action:	Impacts:
Stabilize a 760 foot-long section of streambank on private property, augmenting other restoration activities within a 1.1 mile-long riparian corridor along the Umatilla River.	Low to no impact. Stabilization consists of constructing six rock and rootwad barbs to deflect river current off of eroding bank, recontouring bank slope, and seeding and planting natural vegetation. All work would be completed during in-water work period (July 1 - October 31) when listed MCR steelhead are least likely to be present and with minimum streambank or streambed disturbance.
Annual monitoring and data collection.	No impact. Photo-points, water temperatures, and salmonid utilization of the project area data would be collected for three years following project completion and reports to NMFS annually.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Habitat Goal, Policies and Objectives Sections 7.6A, A1, A2, 7.6B, B1-B6, 7.6C, 7.6D, the Cooperative Habitat Protection and Improvement with Private Landowners Section 7.7 and the State, Federal and Tribal Habitat Improvements Section 7.7A, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Patricia Smith

Patricia R. Smith

Environmental Specialist - KECN-4

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
 Thomas C. McKinney
 NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 9/28/00

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc:

Mr. Gary James, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Ms. Amy Sexton, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation